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exhibited to the Diplomatic Corps at Berlin after the outbreak of the war, and which disposed of Luxemburg, and contingently of Belgium, in the interest of France. Count Benedetti's explanation of the transaction is that, while he held the pen, the proposals came from Bismarck. Admitting this to be true, does it greatly alter the aspect of the case? If Benedetti was victimized, it was by the easy process of leading him on in a path which he desired to tread. He himself declares that it was his opinion that the equilibrium of power, which had been disturbed by the acquisitions of Prussia, could be restored only by the annexation to France of adjoining countries, and that it was under the influence of this conviction that he assumed "to confer with Count Bismarck on the bases of his own constant overtures." It is obvious that Bismarck was not seeking the aggrandizement of France. He was playing a game in diplomacy, as he admitted in 1870, when he made the draft-treaty public.

I should be glad if I could praise the manner in which Count Benedetti's volume has been translated. The translation, however, betrays numerous defects. The form in which many of the sentences are cast is not English, and can scarcely be called French, and words are frequently employed which indicate a dictionary rather than a literary knowledge of the English language.

J. B. MOORE.

A List of Early American Imprints belonging to the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society. With an Introduction and Notes by SAMUEL A. GREEN. (Cambridge. 1895. Pp. 137.)

A List of Early American Imprints, 1640-1700, belonging to the Library of the American Antiquarian Society. With an Introduction and Notes by NATHANIEL PAINE. (Worcester. 1896. Pp. 80.)

THESE two works may be considered as parts of one whole, for the second list was undertaken at the suggestion of the author of the first, and is so thoroughly a supplement that no duplication is attempted, a mere reference to the title in the other book being thought sufficient. Together they constitute a long step towards a list of books printed in New England down to 1700, Dr. Green's list embracing about three hundred titles, and Mr. Paine's about the same number, one-half of which, however, were also in Dr. Green's. Thus, in round figures, the two works include four hundred and fifty distinct titles, and Mr. Paine in his preface states that "the two lists probably contain the titles of nearly all the known publications now extant, issued from the press in British North America from 1640 to 1700 inclusive." We presume in this statement, Mr. Paine means more specifically the press of New England, as the Philadelphia and New York presses were both quite active within these years, yet have but few representatives in these lists. Even with this deduction from the statement, it is still open to question. Without relying on Thomas and Haven's list,

which is too inaccurate to have much dependence placed upon it, a number of tests seem to prove that not more than between a half and two-thirds of the product of the New England press is in the possession of these two libraries. Taking the issues of Daye and Green before 1650 which are actually in existence, as an example, we find in the two lists the *Bay Psalm Book* of 1640, the *Declaration* of 1645, the *Theses* of 1643 and 1647, and the *Oratio* and the *Platform* of 1649. But we do not find the *Almanacs* of 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, nor the second edition of the *Bay Psalm Book*. And to show that this proportion is true of the whole period, it is worth noting that for the year 1691 the two lists give fifteen titles, but do not include the Mathers' *Old Man's Honor*, *Fair Weather*, *Good Souldiers*, *Things to be Looked for*, *Ornaments for the Daughters*, and *Cause and Cure*; Moodey's *Great Sin of Formality*; Janeway's *Token for Children*; *The Assembly's Catechism*, and *Some Considerations on Bills of Credit*, giving a proportion of 15 to 10, and still omitting several others that are probably in existence.

This question of inclusiveness is one, however, of minor importance, not in the least detracting from the true value of the two books, which absolutely fulfil in every respect the purpose they attempt, and so far from revealing poverty, prove that an astonishing proportion of Massachusetts' incunabula are to be found within these two libraries. The books, too, have been catalogued with great minuteness and accuracy, and the indices are satisfactory. The period covered is one of much interest, including, as it does, the beginnings of the revolt against Puritanism, the Andros controversy (with the side-issue of the establishing of the Episcopal Church in Boston), and the witchcraft delusion, all of which produced outbursts of pamphleteering. The bulk of the issues are the theologico-political tracts, almost singular to New England, in which current politics were so blended and interwoven with questions of doctrine as to be now practically inseparable, unless the Puritan jargon of the day be mastered. Another offshoot of this religious literature—that in Indian languages—also seems to have had more or less political intention in it, the fathers very quickly finding that it was both easier and cheaper to convert the red man than to fight him. In true politics there are not more than a dozen squibs, unless we class under this head the colonial laws. Of these latter, the two collections united make an extensive series, the codifications of 1660, 1672, 1675, and 1699, and the session acts for 1663–1666, 1668, 1672–1677, and 1692–1699 being given. When it is considered that the late George H. Moore, who specially collected Massachusetts laws for a long series of years, was only able to obtain session acts covering nine years of the seventeenth century, we can see how material a contribution the present works make to the legal bibliography of that period. In the field of belles-lettres there are no more examples than of true politics, and these few are wholly limited to poetry, the play and novel finding no favor in that time and region. There are a few attempts in science, medicine and physics being the narrow range to which the philosophy of the writers was limited. History and biography

make a somewhat better showing in numbers. It is worth noting, however, that the Massachusetts press is by no means a true exponent of the literary activity of the New England writers, by far the larger number of their productions being printed in England.

Taken in connection with the work of Mr. Hildeburn for the Pennsylvania press, and his announced work of the same character for New York, we are evidently very fast approaching towards a bibliography of printing in the English colonies down to 1700, and it is to be hoped, since so much of the ground has been gone over in the present works, that before long some one will prepare a list of Massachusetts imprints on an equally elaborate scale with Mr. Hildeburn's books. The mysterious 1680 Virginia imprint and the Maryland imprint of 1697 would still be gaps, but such small ones, that we should practically have a list of the issues of the press of the English colonies for the seventeenth century.

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

The Life and Correspondence of Rufus King, Comprising his Letters, Private and Official, his Public Documents, and his Speeches. Edited by his Grandson, CHARLES R. KING, M.D. Vol. III., 1799-1801. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1896. Pp. xxv, 580.)

THE present volume deals with only three years of King's life, covering but a part of his service as minister at St. James. Thus, so far as his letters and notes are concerned, the subjects treated are almost wholly those in question between America and Great Britain, commerce, neutrality, and impressment being the prevailing bones of contention; but many minor questions growing out of the treaties of 1783 and 1794 were still able to cause friction. In addition, King's correspondents in America tell us much about the party struggles of the day, and the old stories of Virginian supremacy, of Jeffersonian Jacobinism, of the Federalist split, of Adams's waywardness, and Hamilton's rashness are again told, and readably told. King's closest correspondents were Pickering, Cabot, Sedgwick, Ames, Troup, and Gore, and all were interesting, if biassed, writers. There is little of the editor's own work, except in the constant evidences of careful editing, almost the whole of the six hundred pages being original documents, many hitherto unprinted, and scarcely one of which is not of distinct value.

The negotiations of King with the British government, while not involving any great feat of diplomacy, were difficult in the extreme, not so much through the actual questions involved as through the complications introduced by the new problem of independence, and the war actually being fought. The disposition of the English government was distinctly amicable. King's complaints are listened to with invariable courtesy by Grenville and Hawkesbury, many of his requests are promptly complied with, and if long delays occurred in the righting of others, the press of work on the ministry and the difficulties of communication at the time seem adequate excuses.